Case3:13-cr-00720-CRB Document1 Filed10/31/13 Page1 of 9

# United States District Court

## FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VENUE: San Francisco

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

V.



DIANNE COBB, and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS,

CR 13

720

CRB

#### DEFENDANT.

**INDICTMENT** 

VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 1341 – Mail Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1343 – Wire Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting; 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1) – Aggravated Identity Theft; 18 U.S.C. § 981(A)(1)(C), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(C) – Forfeiture

Filed in open court this 315t day of

Clork

Clerk

JOSEPH C. SPERO

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Bail, \$ no bank arms worrand

AO 257 (Rev. 6/78)

DESCRIPANT INCORMATION RELATIVE TO	A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
	A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN C.C. DICTRICT COCK.
BY: COMPLAINT INFORMATION INDICTMENT	Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location
OFFENSE CHARGED SUPPORTIONS	$\neg$ $\mid$
18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 1341 – Mail Fraud	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy, 18 U.S.C. § 2.– Alding and	C DEFENDANT - U.S
Abetting; 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1) – Aggravated Identity  Theft; 18 U.S.C. § 981(A)(1)(C); 28 U.S.C. § 2464(1) –  Misde-	DEFENDANT - 0.3
Forfeiture	DIANNE COBB
<b>★</b>   <b>X</b>   Felony	DISTRICT COURT NUMBER
PENALTY: Counts 1 thru 14: 20 years' imprisonment; fine greater of \$250,000	CR 13 720
or 2x gross gain/loss; 3 years supervised release; \$100 S/A; Counts 15 thru 20: 2 years' imprisonment, consecutive to the sentence for	CH LO % AU
the underlying offense, \$100 special assessment	Cph
<u> </u>	DEFENDANT
PROCEEDING	IS NOT IN CUSTODY Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.
Name of Complaintant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)	1) X If not detained give date any prior
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	summons was served on above charges
person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court,	2)  Is a Fugitive
give name of court	
	3) Is on Bail or Release from (show District)
the state of the s	
this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District	
por (email and property)	IS IN CUSTODY
	4) On this charge
this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed	5) On another conviction
which were dismissed on motion SHOW DOCKET NO.	Federal State
	6) Awaiting trial on other charges
U.S. ATTORNEY DEFENSE	If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution
this prosecution relates to a	
pending case involving this same	Has detainer Life give date
defendant MAGISTRATE CASE NO.	been filed? No filed
prior proceedings or appearance(s)	DATE OF Month/Day/Year ARREST
before U.S. Magistrate regarding this defendant were recorded under	Or if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not
	DATE TRANSFERRED Month/Day/Year
Name and Office of Person  Furnishing Information on this form MELINDA HAAG	TO U.S. CUSTODY
✓ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency	
Name of Assistant U.S.	This report amends AO 257 previously submitted
Attorney (if assigned)  THOMAS E. STEVENS, AUSA	
	ORMATION OR COMMENTS ————————————————————————————————————
PROCESS:	Dell Americate MDM
☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS* ☒ WARRANT	Bail Amount: NBW
If Summons, complete following: ☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance	* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or
Defendant Address:	warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment
	Date/Time: Before Judge:
Comments:	and the second s

AO 257 (Rev. 6/78)

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO	A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BY: COMPLAINT INFORMATION INDICTMENT  OFFENSE CHARGED  18 U.S.C. § 1349 - Conspiracy: 18 U.S.C. § 1341 - Mail Fraud;	Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location
18 U.S.C. § 1343 – Wire Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting; 18 U.S.C. § 981(A)(1)(C), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(C) – Forfeiture  Minor Forfeiture  Misdemeand  Felony  PENALTY: Counts runu, 14: 20 years' imprisonment; fine greater of \$250,000 or 2x gross gain/loss; 3 years supervised release; \$100 special assessment	PAUL SLOANE DAVIS  DISTRICT COURT NUMBER
	DEFENDANT
PROCEEDING  Name of Complaintant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)  FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court,	IS NOT IN CUSTODY  Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.  1) If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges  2) Is a Fugitive
give name of court  this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District	3) Is on Bail or Release from (show District)  IS IN CUSTODY  4) On this charge
this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed which were dismissed on motion of:  U.S. ATTORNEY DEFENSE	5) On another conviction Federal State 6) Awaiting trial on other charges If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution
this prosecution relates to a pending case involving this same defendant  magistrate regarding this  this prosecution relates to a  MAGISTRATE CASE NO.	Has detainer Yes   If "Yes" give date filed  DATE OF   Month/Day/Year   ARREST
defendant were recorded under  Name and Office of Person Furnishing Information on this form MELINDA HAAG   ▼ U.S. Attorney □ Other U.S. Agency	Or if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not  DATE TRANSFERRED Month/Day/Year TO U.S. CUSTODY
Name of Assistant U.S. Attorney (if assigned)  THOMAS E. STEVENS, AUSA	This report amends AO 257 previously submitted ORMATION OR COMMENTS
PROCESS:	On Marian On Comment
SUMMONS NO PROCESS* WARRANT  If Summons, complete following: Arraignment Initial Appearance	* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment
Defendant Address:	Date/Time: Before Judge:
Comments:	Deloit dadge.

MELINDA HAAG (CABN 132612) United States Attorney



### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

### SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	) Case No.
2	Plaintiff,	VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 1341 – Mail Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1343 –
3	v.	<ul> <li>Wire Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting;</li> <li>18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1) – Aggravated Identity</li> </ul>
4	DIANNE COBB, and	) Theft; 18 U.S.C. § 981(A)(1)(C), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(C) ) – Forfeiture
5	PAUL SLOANE DAVIS,	)
6	Defendants.	SAN FRANCISCO VENUE

#### INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

#### Introduction

- 1. Defendant DIANE COBB ("COBB") resided in the Northern District of California and in Las Vegas, Nevada. COBB owned and controlled a lending and financial services company known as DM Financial, located in Marin County, California. COBB was, at various times and in various jurisdictions, a licensed mortgage loan originator.
- 2. Defendant PAUL SLOANE DAVIS ("DAVIS") resided in the Northern District of California and in Las Vegas, Nevada. DAVIS held himself out to investors as COBB's business partner, and a manager of DM Financial. DAVIS assisted COBB in the operation of DM Financial.

INDICTMENT

3. Through DM Financial, COBB and DAVIS offered to investors the opportunity to fund purported short-term "bridge loans" to borrowers who, according to the defendants, needed short-term financing in connection with residential real estate transactions. COBB and DAVIS typically provided to investors, among other things, the identity of the purported borrower, a promissory note reflecting the amount and other terms of the loan, and a deed of trust designating the borrower's real property that would secure the loan.

4. Based upon the written and verbal representations made to them by COBB and DAVIS, the investors believed that COBB and DAVIS were directing the investors' funds into secured bridge loans. COBB and DAVIS told investors that investors would receive regular interest payments from the borrowers, and a return of principal after the loan period ended. From 2009 through 2012, investors directed to COBB and DAVIS more than \$2 million for this purpose.

#### The Scheme to Defraud

5. From at least in or about 2009 through approximately December 2012, COBB and DAVIS engaged in a scheme to defraud investors, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, by making materially false statements to, and omitting to disclose and concealing material facts, from the investors in connection with their investments in purported bridge loans offered by COBB and DAVIS through DM Financial.

### Manner and Means of the Scheme to Defraud

- 6. As a part of the scheme to defraud, COBB and DAVIS falsely represented to investors that the investors' money would fund bridge loans to borrowers, when in truth, as the defendants knew, substantially all of the transactions offered to the investors involved purported borrowers who had not applied for a bridge loan, and who did not, and would not, receive from COBB or DAVIS any investor funds for such purpose.
- 7. As a further part of the scheme to defraud, COBB prepared and sent to investors fictitious promissory notes and deeds of trust for purported bridge loan agreements which, as the defendants knew, did not exist. These documents reflected the identities (often including forged signatures) of actual persons, who had not applied for bridge loans, were unaware that DM Financial was using their

identities on bridge loan documents, and who did not authorize COBB or DAVIS to use their identities in that manner.

- 8. As a further part of the scheme to defraud, COBB and DAVIS caused the investors to use the mail and interstate wires to send funds to DM Financial for purported bridge loan investments, but diverted the investors' money to unauthorized uses including, but not limited to, payments for the personal benefit of COBB and DAVIS, such as rent, restaurants, travel, and cash withdrawals at casinos.
- 9. As a further part of the scheme to defraud, COBB made periodic "interest payments" to investors to lull them into believing that their money had actually been invested in bridge loans and that the borrowers were performing their purported obligations to pay interest.

<u>COUNT ONE</u>: (18 U.S.C. § 1349 – Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud)

- 10. Paragraphs 1 through 9 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth here.
- 11. From in or about 2009 to approximately December 2012, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

## DIANE COBB and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS,

did conspire to commit offenses against the United States, namely, mail fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1341, and wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1343.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNTS TWO THROUGH FIVE: (18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 2 – Mail Fraud and Aiding and Abetting)

- 12. Paragraphs 1 through 9 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth here.
- 13. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

## DIANE COBB and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS,

for the purpose of executing a material scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission and concealment of material facts, did knowingly cause the mail matter listed below to be deposited, sent, and delivered by the United States Postal Service and interstate carrier:

**INDICTMENT** 

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Count	Approximate Mailing Date	Description
2	February 9, 2011	\$57,000 check from ST to DM Financial for purported loan to MF
3	March 11, 2011	\$43,800 check from ST to DM Financial for purported loan to TD
4	June 28, 2011	\$52,000 check from SB to DM Financial for purported loan to JP
5	May 30, 2012	\$51,000 check from ST to COBB for purported loan to CC

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2.

COUNTS SIX THROUGH FOURTEEN: (18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2 – Wire Fraud and Aiding and Abetting)

- 14. Paragraphs 1 through 9 are realleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 15. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

## DIANE COBB and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS,

having devised and intending to devise a material scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate commerce certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, as set forth below:

Count	Approximate Wire Date	Amount	Description -
6	February 11, 2009	\$37,000	interstate wire from JP to DM Financial for purported loan to JF
7	June 8, 2009	\$91,000	interstate wire from JP to DM Financial for purported loan to JC and DW
8	August 27, 2009	\$32,500	interstate wire from RA to DM Financial for purported loan to unnamed borrower
9	March 24, 2010	\$43,000	interstate wire from AC to DM Financial for purported loan to NM
10	March 26, 2010	\$45,000	interstate wire from AC to DM Financial for purported loan to DW
11	November 12, 2010	\$40,000	interstate wire from PN to DM Financial for purported loan to unknown borrower

INDICTMENT

Count	Approximate Wire Date	Amount	Description
12	September 20, 2011	\$20,000	interstate wire from ES and KS to DM Financial for purported loan to MA
13	October 5, 2011	\$27,000	interstate wire from LL to DM Financial for purported loan to MA
14	February 8, 2012	\$61,000	interstate wire from LL to DM Financial for purported loan to AN

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 2.

### COUNTS FIFTEEN THROUGH TWENTY: (18 U.S.C. §§ 1028A(a)(1) – Aggravated Identity Theft)

- 16. Paragraphs 1 through 15 are realleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 17. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, defendant DIANE COBB, during and in relation to violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, as set forth in Counts Four, Six, Nine, Twelve, Thirteen, and Fourteen, did knowingly possess and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person, knowing that the means of identification belonged to another person, as set forth below:

Count	Approximate Date	Description	
15	February 13, 2009	Promissory note and trust deed reflecting name of purported borrower JF (Count Six)	
16	March 31, 2010	Promissory note and trust deed reflecting name of purported borrower NM (Count Nine)	
17	June 27, 2011	Email reflecting name of purported borrower JP and describing bridge loan investment (Count Four)	
18	September 27, 2011	Promissory note and trust deed reflecting name of purported borrower MA (Count Twelve)	
19	October 5, 2011	Promissory note and trust deed reflecting name of purported borrower MA (Count Thirteen)	
20	February 1, 2012	Email reflecting name of purported borrower AN and describing bridge loan investment (Count Fourteen)	

### FORFEITURE ALLEGATION: (18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c))

18. The allegations in paragraphs 1 through 17 and the factual allegations in Counts One through Twenty of this Indictment are realleged and fully incorporated here for the purpose of alleging

INDICTMENT

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forfeiture pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c). 19. Upon a conviction of any of the offenses alleged in Counts One through Twenty, the defendants, DIANE COBB and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS, shall forfeit to the United States all property constituting and derived from proceeds traceable to violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1341 (Mail Fraud), as alleged in Counts One through Five, and 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud), as alleged in Count One and Counts Six through Fourteen of this Indictment. If any of the forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant: 20. (A) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence: (B) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (C) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; (D) has been substantially diminished in value; or (E) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty; any and all interest defendant has in other property, up to the value of the forfeitable property described above, shall be vested in the United States and forfeited to the United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, § 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, § 2461(c) and Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. DATED: October 31, 2013 A TRUE BILL ency J. Return **MELINDA HAAG** United States Attorney J. DOUGLAS WILSON

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Chief, Criminal Division

(Approved as to form:

AUSA Thomas E. Stevens

**INDICTMENT** 

# **United States District Court Northern District of California**

## CRIMINAL COVER SHEET

	and the Company of th
Instructions: Effective January 3, 2012, this Criminal Cover Sheet must be con Defendant Information Form, for each new criminal case	apleted and submitted, along with the
Case Name:	Case Number:
USA v. DIANNE COBB and PAUL SLOANE DAVIS CF	
Total Number of Defendants:	Is This Case Under Seal?
1 2-7 8 or more	Yes No
Does this case involve ONLY charges under 8 U.S.C. § 1325 and/or 1326?	
Yes No 🗸	
Venue (Per Crim. L.R. 18-1):	
SF OAK SJ EUR MON	
Is any defendant charged with a death-penalty-eligible crime?	Assigned AUSA (Lead Attorney):
Yes No V	THOMAS E. STEVENS, AUSA
Is this a RICO Act gang case?	Date Submitted:
Yes No	October 31, 2013
Comments:	

Print

Clear Form